

Sandbach Urban District Council.



INTERIM REPORT

on the Health and Sanitary
Circumstances of the District
for the Year ended 31st
December, 1939.



Medical Officer of Health :

ARNOLD BROWN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Commenced duty 1st June, 1939.

ANDREW HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B.,
Resigned 31st May, 1939.

Sanitary Inspector :

G. ALLMAN, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I.,

To the Chairman and Members of the
Sandbach Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Sandbach for the Year ended 31st December, 1939. This Report has been compiled as laid down in Circulars Nos. 1961 and 2067 of the Ministry of Health, and has been considerably curtailed.

Under the Government evacuation scheme 1,300 mothers and children were received. At the end of the Year the number remaining was 600. It cannot be said that evacuation was in any way responsible for the diphtheria epidemic in the latter months of 1939, as many cases had occurred before the outbreak of war.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

The customary notes on Social Conditions are not requested by the Ministry of Health for the Year ending 31st December, 1939.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

				Total.		Male.		Female.
Live Births	..	Legitimate	...	121	...	65	...	59
		Illegitimate	...	1	...	1	...	—
Still Births	...	...	...	10	...	4	...	6
Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated average population, mid 1939, 14.3.								

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 75.7.

				Total.		Male.		Female.
Deaths	...	...	...	115	...	55	...	60
Death-rate per 1,000 estimated average population, 13.2.								
Comparability factor, 0.97.								

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :

	No. of Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis...	0 ...	0
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes ...	... 0 ...	0
Total	... 0 ...	0

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	... .. 65.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... 57.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... 1000

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	5 ...	10 ...	15
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...	... ..	— ...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)...	— ...	... ..	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	— ...	... ..	—

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which require comment.

There does not appear to be any occupation having a prejudicial effect on health.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Health Services in the area remained unchanged during the year. A large house, Linden Bank, at Elworth, has been used as a hostel for evacuees, who, on account of uncleanly habits, were unsuitable for billeting in ordinary houses.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

To meet the increasing demand, consideration is now being given to the sinking of further bore-holes in 1940.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Minor improvements have been carried out at the Elworth Works, and only short extensions were made to the Sewerage system in 1939.

Closet Accommodation.

Number of Conversions during 1939—Two.

There are no Houses on the conservancy system in the built-up areas of the Urban District.

Refuse Removal and Disposal.

There is no change in the methods of disposal of refuse.

Sanitary Inspection.

Number of Inspections during the Year	...	...	1,252.
„ Statutory Notices served during Year.			Nil.
„ Informal Notices	„	„	36
„ Informal Notices complied with	...		20
„ Informal Notices in hand	...	...	16

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is only one small privately owned Swimming Pool in the area, which, on account of defects, was closed by the owner after a Statutory Notice had been served requiring certain works to be carried out.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The customary table of activities under the Housing Acts is omitted.

Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served under Housing Acts, requiring repairs, and which were rendered fit by owners after service of such formal notices... Nil.

Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices under the Public Health Acts were served requiring defects to be remedied and which were complied with	Nil.
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
---	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (including Houses under Demolition Ordeas prior to 1939)...	2
--	-----	-----	---

Number of Houses erected during the Year :—

By private enterprise	...	...	...	57
By the local authority	...	...	...	0
By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	0

On account of the scarcity of material occasioned by the war, considerable difficulty has been experienced by property owners in carrying out works at the request of the Sanitary Inspector.

Five Houses included in the Council's clearance scheme are yet to be demolished. All these are empty. Demolition Orders were made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1939, regarding 8 Wooden Bungalows, affecting 29 persons. Two Bungalows have been demolished and 2 are vacant, leaving 4 still occupied by 18 persons.

Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the Year	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	101

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Number of Registered Cow-keepers, 43, of whom 22 are producers of "Accredited" Milk. There are no producers of Tuberculin-tested milk.

One sample of milk, out of 23 obtained, was found to be adulterated and was certified by the County Analyst as containing at least 3.1 per cent. of extraneous water. Proceedings were taken but the case was dismissed.

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses 9

Meat found to be unfit for food :—

		Carcases	Fore Quarters	Livers	Lungs	Udders	Heads
Bovines	...	5	2	8	4	3	0
Pigs ...	...	3	0	0	4	0	15
Sheep	...	0	0	26	2	0	0

There were no notifications under the Tuberculosis Order during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

28 premises have been registered as suitable for the preparation of ice cream or preserved food under Section 14 of this Act.

SECTION F.

**Prevalence of and Control over Infectious
and other Diseases.**

Scarlet Fever.

59 cases were notified, of whom 52 were removed to the West Heath Sanatorium.

Seasonal Incidence.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
0	1	0	0	3	4	8	1	18	8	9	7

Diphtheria.

74 cases of diphtheria were notified, of whom 71 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. On account of the large number of cases it was necessary to isolate one of these patients at the Isolation Hospital at Northwich.

Seasonal Incidence.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	1	3	3	1	1	5	10	19	5	15	10

Ages at Death.

0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—14	15—24
			1		5	1

A scheme for the immunisation of as large a proportion of the child population whose parents would consent to the scheme was commenced in September. The method used was three injections at weekly intervals of Messrs. Parke Davis's Diphtheria Prophylactic T.A.M., this being substituted in children of 10 years and over by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcomes' T.A.F.

Number of children immunised by private Doctors during 1939 :—

Under School age...	...	94
Of School age	...	150

Number of children immunised under Council Scheme during 1939 :—

Under School age...	...	102
Of School age	...	391

Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1939.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	59	52	0
Diphtheria	74	71	7
Pneumonia	5	0	0
Erysipelas	11	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	0	0	0
Measles	1	0	0
Whooping Cough...	0	0	0

Analysis of Notifiable Disease under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	—	2	2	4	5	18	12	7	9	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	1	4	29	26	8	6	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	4

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Period	Respiratory.		New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Up to 1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	1	—	—
15—25	2	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	1
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	3	—	—	1	—	1

Both deaths were of Notified Cases.

Factories Act, 1937.

Number of Certificates granted during 1939 in respect of Fire Escapes—5.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council, the Clerk of the Council, and the Sanitary Inspector, for their assistance during the Year.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

ARNOLD BROWN,

Medical Officer of Health.

